



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**JACKSON, HOWELL EDMUNDS,  
FAMILY PAPERS  
1841-1942**

*Processed by:*

Harriett Chappell Owsley & Mary Washington Frazer  
Archival Technical Services

Accession Numbers: 1273, 1967.011

Date Completed: February 15, 1967

Location: IV-F-5

Microfilm Accession Number: 1204

**MICROFILMED**

## **INTRODUCTION**

These are the papers of Howell E. Jackson (1832-1895) and some papers of his brother, William H. Jackson. These brothers married sisters who were daughters of William Giles Harding (1808-1886) the owner of Belle Meade Plantation about six miles from Nashville.

The items were given to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Mrs. Jesse Wills (Ellen McClung Buckner), Nashville, Tennessee, and her two sisters, Mrs. John K. Maddin (Elizabeth Buckner) and Mrs. Stuart Ragland (Mary Harding Buckner), granddaughters of Howell E. Jackson, and by Mrs. Wills's son, William Ridley Wills II.

The materials in this finding aid measure .84 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Howell E. Jackson Family Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, containing approximately 400 items, is composed of correspondence, business papers, deeds, indentures, photographs, wills, and other papers of the family of William Giles Harding. The largest portion of the papers is for the family of his daughter, Mary, who married Howell E. Jackson, a lawyer, Senator, and an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Another daughter, Selene, married William H. Jackson, a brother of Howell, who became the owner and manager of Belle Meade Plantation. There are three letters written to her by her mother while she was there.

The forty letters of Howell E. Jackson to his wife, Mary, are for the years 1875-1881 during periods when they were separated, either when he was in Memphis on legal cases or in Washington or when she was at Belle Meade visiting her parents and sister. They contain information about Washington during the year 1881 while Howell E. Jackson was serving in the United States Senate. One letter, written from his home in Jackson, Tennessee, contains data about the Jackson Female Institute and its commencement speaker, Dr. Wordsworth, an eminent Methodist minister. A letter, written in 1872 to his brother, Billy, at Belle Meade, defends the legal profession against the attacks of his brother.

The five letters written by Selene Harding Jackson contain interesting information about Belle Meade farming and race horse operations. She wrote of visits from Mac Dickinson and others. Most of the letters are undated but from the contents they are judged to be for the period 1875-1880.

In addition to the correspondence there are some business papers dealing with Jackson Building accounts and the Nashville Realty Company; some deeds and indentures; and the wills of Sadie G. Buckner (1924), Selene Jackson Elliston (1910), Margaret M. Gardner (1882), Robert H. Gardner (1882), William Giles Harding (1883), Howell E. Jackson (1895), and Mary E. Jackson (1913).

An addition of approximately ninety items contains papers dating from 1841-1895 consisting of the following: correspondence, 1841-1852, from Sam Houston and others, mainly in regard to money matters and land, to Gen. William Giles Harding, owner of Belle Meade Plantation and father-in-law of Howell E. Jackson; correspondence to him, 1862, when a prisoner of war on Mackinac Island; a letter from his wife to the Federal authorities, 1865, in regard to being permitted to remain at her home; seventeen letters of Mary Harding Jackson to her husband, Howell, 1874-????, written from her home, Belle Meade, and from Jackson, Tennessee; thirty-eight letters from Howell to his wife, 1872-1881, when in Memphis, Tennessee, on legal cases, or in Washington, D.C., when U.S. Senator; two letters to his brother, William: one, 1892, in regard to the settlement of the Belle Meade estate; the other, 1895, grieving that William had lured away his dairy help in a most unneighborly manner; and nine miscellaneous letters, 1863-1876. Included is a biographical sketch of Howell E. Jackson, 1893; and a reprint of an article on Belle Meade, 1895.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

### **Howell Edmunds Jackson**

- 1832      Born April 8 in Paris, Tennessee (Henry County), son of Dr. Alexander Jackson, a physician, and his wife, Mary Hurt Jackson.
- 1840      Moved to Jackson with his parents.
- 1849      Graduated from West Tennessee College.
- 1854      Graduated from the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, Virginia.
- 1856      Graduated from Law Department of Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee. Commenced practice in Jackson.
- 1859      Moved to Memphis where he practiced law. Married Sophia Malloy who died about 1872 or 1873.
- 1874      Married Mary E. Harding, daughter of William Giles Harding. Returned to Jackson and served on the court of arbitration for West Tennessee by appointment on two occasions.
- 1880      Member of the Tennessee House of Representatives.
- 1881-1886      Elected and served as Democrat in the United States Senate.
- 1886-1893      Served as Circuit Judge for the Sixth Federal Circuit.
- 1891      Became first presiding Judge of Circuit Court Appeals established in Cincinnati.
- 1893-1895      Appointed Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court to fill vacancy caused by the death of L.Q.C. Lamar.
- 1895      Died August 8 in West Meade, Tennessee. Interment at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Nashville.

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

1. Articles of Agreement – 1844, 1846
2. Clippings, n.d.
3. Correspondence – Harding, Mrs. W.G. – (3) – 1864; (1) – 1865
4. Correspondence – Jackson, Eunice – (6) – 1887-1888
5. Correspondence – Jackson, Howell E. – (82) – 1872-1895
6. Correspondence – Jackson, Mamie – (2) – 1876
7. Correspondence – Jackson, Mary Harding – (23) – 1874- ?
8. Correspondence – Jackson, Selene Harding – (6) 1875- ?
9. Correspondence – Jackson, William H. – (8) – 1868-1888
10. Correspondence – Martin, J.H. – (13) – 1865-1868
11. Correspondence – Friends of the family – (10) – 1863-1930
12. Correspondence – Friends of Mary Harding – (2) – 1869-1874
13. Correspondence – Relatives of the Hardings and Jacksons – (2) – 1886
14. Correspondence – General – (5) – 1844-1899
15. Correspondence – Houston, Sam, et al. – 1841-1842, to Gen. Jackson
16. Correspondence – to Gen. Harding when a prisoner of war – 1862
17. Correspondence – Miscellaneous family – 1875-1876
18. Genealogical Data – Bostick, Harding, Jackson families: notes
19. Sketches – re: Howell E. Jackson; Belle Meade

### **Box 2**

1. Business Papers – Accounts for Jackson Building, 1909
2. Business Papers – Agreements – M.G. Buckner, Hill McAlister, H.A. Jackson, 1917-1926
3. Business Papers – Buckner business by M.K. Peck – (60) – 1893-1907
4. Business Papers – Buckner notes and receipts, 1904-1907
5. Business Papers – Buckner stocks, etc., 1891-1906
6. Deeds and Indentures – H.B. Buckner to M.K. Peck, 1895
7. Deeds and Indentures – M.G. Buckner, Hill McAlister, H.A. Jackson, 1920-1924
8. Legal Papers – Case of Sadie G. Buckner vs. M.M. Gardner, 1908
9. Obituary of Miss Josephine Southall, 1859
10. Opinion of Howell E. Jackson re: Income tax
11. Partnership – Gardner-Buckner and Co., 1866-1905
12. Photograph of U.S. Supreme Court with signatures of Justices, 1894
13. Real Estate Papers – Nashville Realty Company, 1890-1903
14. Real Estate Papers – Abstract of Title, 1889; article of agreement, 1846
15. Real Estate Papers – West Meade Subdivision, 1940-1942
16. Wills – Sadie G. Buckner, 1924

17. Wills – Selene Jackson Elliston, 1910
18. Wills – Margaret M. Gardner, 1882
19. Wills – Robert H. Gardner, 1882
20. Wills – William Giles Harding, 1883
21. Wills – Howell E. Jackson, 1895
22. Wills – Mary H. Jackson, 1913